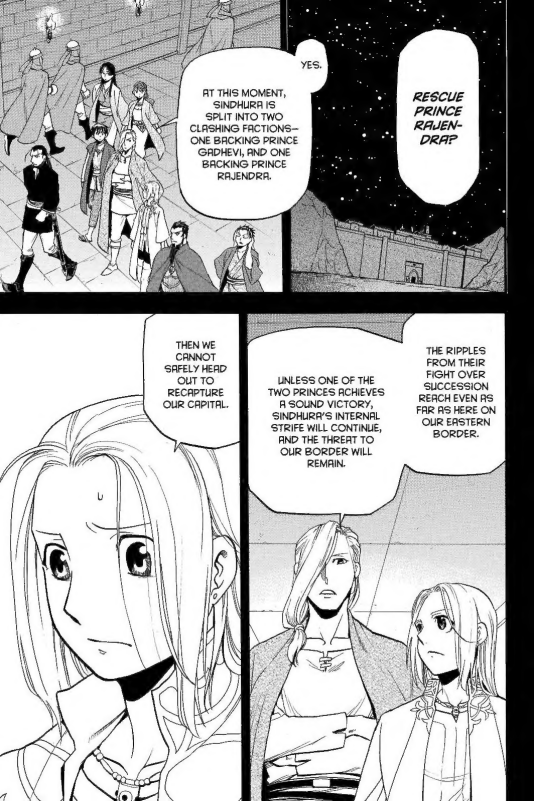

RESCUE PRINCE RAJENDRA?
YES.
AT THIS MOMENT, SINDHURA IS SPLIT INTO TWO CLASHING FACTIONS— ONE BACKING PRINCE GADHEVI, AND ONE BACKING PRINCE RAJENDRA.
THE RIPPLES FROM THEIR FIGHT OVER SUCCESSION REACH EVEN AS FAR AS HERE ON OUR EASTERN BORDER.
UNLESS ONE OF THE TWO PRINCES ACHIEVES A SOUND VICTORY, SINDHURA'S INTERNAL STRIFE WILL CONTINUE, AND THE THREAT TO OUR BORDER WILL REMAIN.
THEN WE CANNOT SAFELY HEAD OUT TO RECAPTURE OUR CAPITAL.

FROM WHAT WE'VE DUG UP, PRINCE RAJENDRA IS THE UNDERDOG IN THE FIGHT FOR SINDHURAN THRONE.
WE ARE RESCUING THE WEAKER PRINCE?
DO YOU MEAN THAT WE SHOULD PLACE PRINCE RAJENDRA IN OUR DEBT, SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT TO OUR REAR?
THAT IS THE IDEA EXACTLY.
IT IS BY RESCUING THE WEAK AND HELPING THEM TOPPLE THE MIGHTY THAT ONE CAN SUCCESSFULLY BRING ANOTHER INTO ONE'S DEBT.
THERE IS NO MEANING IN RESCUING THOSE WHO DO NOT REQUIRE IT.
NARSUS/
I WOULD EXPECT HIM TO ATTACK US THE MOMENT OUR MEN'S BACKS ARE TURNED.
HE IS AMBITIOUS AND GREEDY. CERTAINLY NOT A TRUSTWORTHY CHARACTER...
SO LONG AS RAJENDRA IS THE KIND OF MAN WHO FEELS OBLIGATED TO REPAY HIS DEBTS, ANYWAY.

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Chapter 41: The Handsome Sindhuran

BY ALL LIKELIHOOD.
THE ONE ON THE WHITE HORSE IS RAJENDRA, RIGHT?
WE'LL WAIT WHILE THE FRONT OF THEIR FORCES MARCHES AHEAD...
MOVE QUICKLY! WE WILL ATTACK PESHAWAR BEFORE DAYBREAK!
RIDING A WHITE HORSE WITH SO MANY SHINY BANGLES FOR A NIGHT AMBUSH? HE MUST WANT TO BE SEEN!
DON'T YOU GIVE US ORDERS!
ON MY MARK!
THERE THEY ARE! THE OXCARTS CARRYING THEIR PROVISIONS!

MOOO!
?!
MOO!
ズ
THRUNK
ドゥ
MOOOO!
モォォォォォ
ビュン
THWIP
ビュン
THWIP
わああああ
あ
WAAAAH

WAAAAH
あわわわわわ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU FOOL?! QUIET THE OXEN!!
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...
IS NOW THE TIME?
LISTEN CLOSELY, ELAM. I HAVE WRITTEN DOWN SOME SINDHURAN WORDS FOR YOU.
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, READ THEM ALOUD IN A GREAT SHOUT.
BUT I CANNOT READ SINDHURAN.
THAT IS FINE.
I HAVE APPROXIMATED THE PRONUNCIATIONS IN PARSIAN SCRIPT.
IT IS WRITTEN IN INK MADE WITH PHOSPHOR, SO YOU WILL BE ABLE TO READ IT EVEN IN THE DARKNESS.
WOW, YOU REALLY CAN!
HOOO...
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK !!!

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
AN AMBUSH?!
IT CAN'T BE!!
RUMBLE
GOEH !!
CLAMOR
PRINCE GADHEVI'S ARMY IS ATTACKING FROM BEHIND !!
GADHEVI IS ATTACKING US FROM BEHIND!!?
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE !!
RETREAT ...
WAIT, NO! ADVANCE?!

WHAT?!
YOUR HIGHNESS RAJENDRA! WE HAVE TROUBLE!
PRINCE GADHEVI HAS BROUGHT A GREAT ARMY BEHIND US AND ATTACKED OUR REAR!
ZUDOO
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT I AM HERE?!
PRINCE GADHEVI?!
IT MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! CHECK ONCE MORE!
COULD IT BE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN WATCHING OUR EVERY MOVE...?!
WE LEFT MEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER!
THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY FLANK OUR REAR SO EASILY!
DOES THAT MEAN... ARE THERE TRAITORS WITHIN OUR ARMY...?

YOUR HIGHNESS.
TO BE CUT OFF FROM THE REAR IN THIS NARROW RAVINE WOULD BE UNFAVORABLE TO US.
IF THE PARSIANS WERE TO CHARGE AT US FROM THE FRONT, WE WOULD BE FLANKED ON BOTH SIDES.
FOR THE MOMENT, WE SHOULD FALL BACK TO THE KAVERI RIVERBANK.
...
FALL BACK!
RETREAT TO THE KAVERI RIVER!
AS YOU COMMAND!
PULL BACK!

PULL BACK?!
BUT GARDHEVI'S ARMY IS BEHIND US!
ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT THEM?!
WAIT FOR ORDERS?
WEREN'T WE ADVANCING?!
NO, WE'RE RETREATING!
GAH, WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?!
I HAVE AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR HIS HIGHNESS!
WHERE IS HIS HIGHNESS?!
NOW WHAT?!
PRINCE RAJENDRA OF SINDHURA HAS BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE PARSIAN ARMY!
HUH?

THAT'S LORD NARSUS' SIGNAL!
GOOHS
FIRE !!!
THWIP
THWIP
THWIP
GEH!
THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK
WEH?!
EH?!
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!

RRRMBL
AAHH

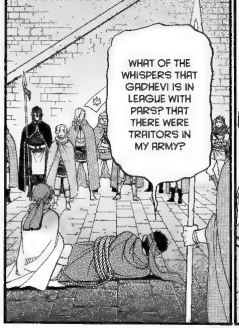
DO NOT FALTER! PUSH THEM BACK!
BUT ...
BGEH!!!
GLORSH
WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A CHARGE FROM THE PARSIAN ARMY!
WE HAVE TO RE-TREAT!
AREN'T WE RE-TREAT-ING?!
RD-VANCE! RD-VANCE!
WAIT, BUT GADHEVI'S ARMY IS BEHIND US!

COULD GADHEVI'S ARMY BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE PARSIAN ARMY?!
WH... WHAT IS GOING ON?!
KA KRING
YOUR HIGHNESS RAJENDRA! JUST AS PLANNED, WE WILL HAVE YOU BECOME OUR CAPTIVE!
..I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MADNESS IS GOING ON HERE, BUT...

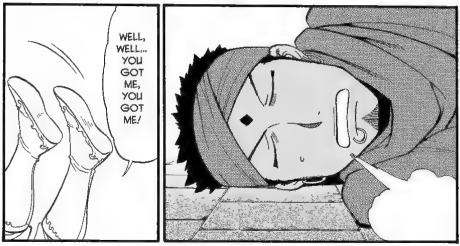
BA CHING
I REFUSE!
CRING
CLANG
CRING
CLANG
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE, NARGUG?!!
A MONSTER?!
THOOM

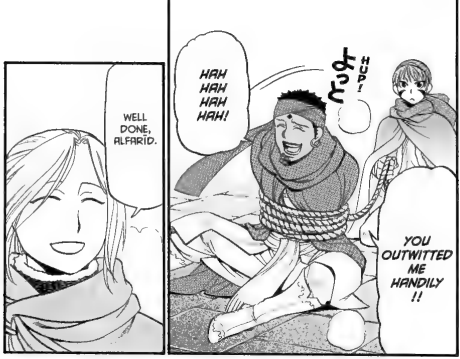
TH-THUMP
I WILL LET YOU LIVE TODAY!
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOU WILL NOT BE SO LUCKY!
THUNK
HREEEEN
OOF!

THWIP
THUMP
OGEH!!
...HANDSOME SINDHURAN.
MOVE AND YOU DIE...

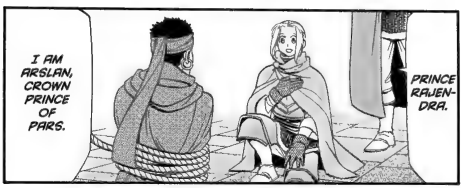

WHAT OF THE WHISPERS THAT GADHEVI IS IN LEAGUE WITH PARSI? THAT THERE WERE TRAITORS IN MY ARMY?
...AND THAT IS HOW THIS HAP-PENED.

THEY WERE ALL ASSUMPTIONS THAT YOU AND YOUR MEN IMAGINED UP AND ALLOWED TO CONFUSE YOU ENTIRELY ON YOUR OWN.
THERE IS NO TRUTH TO SUCH THINGS.


WELL, WELL... YOU GOT ME, YOU GOT ME!


YOU OUTWITTED ME HANDILY !!
HUP!
HAH HAH HAH HAH!
WELL DONE, ALFARÎD.

OH, NO. IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF LORD NARSUS' IMPECCABLE PLANNING.
HERE I'D BEEN WONDERING WHAT A BANDIT GIRL WAS DOING IN HIS HIGHNESS' COMPANY.
SHE'S PRETTY GOOD!


I AM ARSLAN, CROWN PRINCE OF PARS.
PRINCE RAJEN-DRA.

ALTHOUGH THE MEANS WAS SLIGHTLY CRUDE, I INVITED YOU HERE IN THIS WAY BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
DIS-CUSS WITH ME?
I WOULD LIKE TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE WITH YOU.
FIRST, WE WILL HELP YOU ASCEND THE SINDHURAN THRONE.
I BELIEVE YOU ARE AWARE THAT PARS HAS BEEN INVADED FROM THE WEST BY THE LUSITANIAN ARMY.
OUR ARMY FOUGHT BRAVELY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE OUTCOME HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY IN OUR FAVOR.

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, I AM NOT THE CAPTIVE OF A FOREIGN KINGDOM'S ARMY.
YOU SAY YOU WILL "RESCUE" ME WHEN YOUR OWN SITUATION IS SO DIRE?
YOU CANNOT BE IN SUCH A BETTER POSITION THAN I.
YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT.
I BELIEVE THAT PLACES ME AT AN ADVANTAGE.
AM I WRONG?
OH?
IF YOU ARE DISINCLINED TO AGREE, IT IS NOT A PROBLEM TO US.
WHAT FOOL WOULD EVER AGREE TO SUCH A FLIMSY ALLIANCE?
YOU GIVE A GOOD SPEECH, BUT YOU ONLY WANT TO USE MY ARMY, DON'T YOU?

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! THIS IS NOT A MATTER TO COME TO A DECISION ABOUT SO HASTILY!
GIEVE. THE CHAIN.
WE WILL SIMPLY MOVE ON. THEN, TO ATTACHING A CHAIN TO YOUR NECK AND HANDING YOU OVER TO PRINCE GADHEVI.
WH ...!
GADHEVI'S REACTION MATTERS NOT A LICK TO US.
HE IS A WICKED MAN, YES, WICKED INDEED/ HE MAY EVEN ATTACK YOU ON THE PRETEXT THAT YOU KILLED HIS HALF-BROTHER/
HANDING ME OVER TO GADHEVI WILL BUY YOU NO GRATITUDE FROM HIM/
OH, DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I WOULD NEED TIME TO CONVINCE THE SINDHURAN PEOPLE AS WELL.../
W-WAIT/ EVEN IF I AGREE TO AN ALLIANCE, MY WILL ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE IT SO/
IF YOU ARE GOING TO REFUSE OUR ALLIANCE, THEN WE WILL EXACT OUR REVENGE. THAT IS ALL THERE IS TO IT...

"PRINCE RAJENDRA HAS FORGED AN ALLIANCE WITH ARSLAN, CROWN PRINCE OF PARS, BUILT ON MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND PRINCIPLES. IN ORDER TO BRING PEACE TO SINDHURA, THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO MARCH FOR URAIYUR, THE CAPITAL."
THIS WAS THEIR MESSAGE.
BY MEANS OF A NUMBER OF HIS HIGHNESS' MEN, WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED THOSE IN SINDHURA OF YOUR DECISION.
OH, ARSLAN! SO DREAMY...
THE PEOPLE OF YOUR KINGDOM WILL QUICKLY BE CONVINCED OF YOUR STRONG RESOLVE.
WITHIN TWO OR THREE DAYS, THIS MESSAGE WILL REACH URAIYUR.

FOR ONE SO YOUNG, YOU CAN HOLD YOUR OWN. AND MOST OF ALL, YOU KEEP EXCELLENT SUBORDINATES!
HA HA HA! I LIKE YOU, PRINCE ARSLAN!

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
YOU WILL MAKE A RELIABLE ALLY!
LET US DO ALL THAT WE CAN FOR EACH OTHER!

ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT.
YOU HAVE YOUR ALLIANCE.

IF WE FAIL, WE ARE FATED TO DIE AS TRAITORS!
BECAUSE WE WERE BORN MEN, WE DRINK SPIRITS, SLEEP WITH WOMEN, HUNT ELEPHANTS, AND TAKE KINGDOMS!
HA-HA-H
THAT'S OUR WINE.
HA HA HA
NOW, DRINK! DRINK! DRINK!
THAT'S OUR WINE.
NOT YOURS!
BUT HE WAS INTENT ON KILLING ME MERE HOURS AGO...

IT'S LIKE THE SNORING OF A WATER BUFFALO!
GOOD GODS! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MET A WORSE SINGER THAN MY FATHER!
IT IS A FEAT THAT HE CAN CONTINUE TO TALK FOR SO LONG.
HE EATS LIKE A BAR-BAR-IAN!
PARS AN DISHES AREN'T QUITE SPICY ENOUGH!
YOU, WITH THE BEARD! LORD KISHWARD! JOIN IN!
WHY IS THERE NO CLAPPING, PRINCE ARSLAN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHALL I PERFORM A SINDHURAN SONG?!

THERE IS A GODDESS ON THE PARSIAN BATTLEFIELD.
DARIUS

I AM A BASHFUL MAN, SO I HAVE BEEN MUSTERING THE COURAGE TO SPEAK TO YOU, AND, AH, AHEM, YOU KNOW...
I HAVE NOT TAKEN A WIFE.

THE SPIRITS I'LL FILL YOUR CUP WITH WILL HAVE A BETTER FLAVOR.
LADY FARANGIS.

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PLOP

RRRUMBLE
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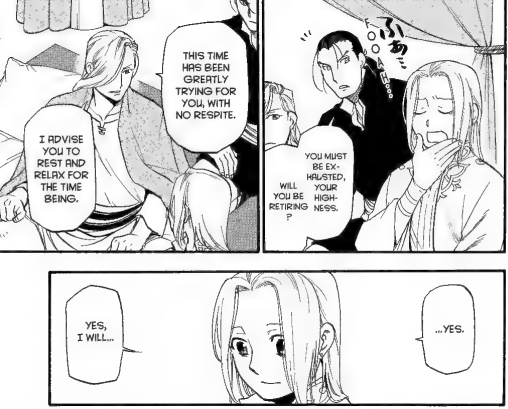
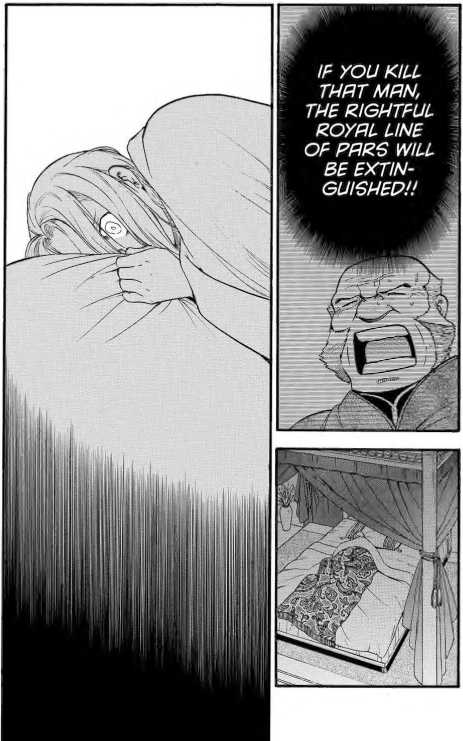
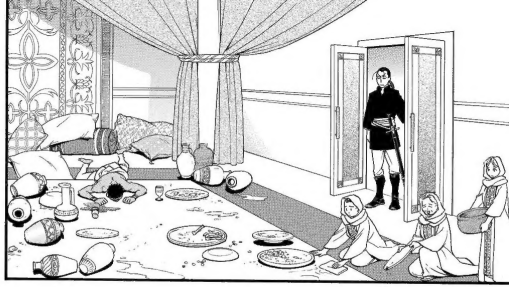
RRRUMBLE

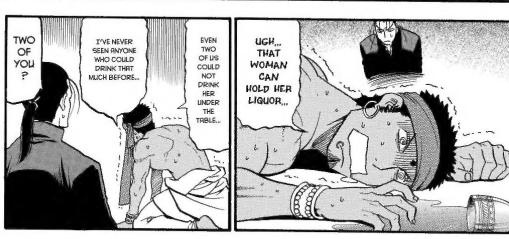

THIS TIME HAS BEEN GREATLY TRYING FOR YOU, WITH NO RESPITE.
I ADVISE YOU TO REST AND RELAX FOR THE TIME BEING.
WILL YOU BE RETIRING?
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED, YOUR HIGHNESS.
...YES.
YES, I WILL...

YOU MUST NOT KILL HIM!!!


IF YOU KILL THAT MAN, THE RIGHTFUL ROYAL LINE OF PARS WILL BE EXTIN-GUISHED!!

LORD DARYUN.
HAS HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN RETIRED?
YES.
WHAT OF PRINCE RAJENDRA?
UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO, HE WAS DRAINING HIS WINE CUP, BUT AT SOME POINT HE FELL ASLEEP.
IT WOULD SEEM THAT SINDHURANS DO NOT HAVE MUCH TOLERANCE FOR SPIRITS.
OH?
WAFT
HRK!




UGH... THAT WOMAN CAN HOLD HER LIQUOR...
EVEN TWO OF US COULD NOT DRINK HER UNDER THE TABLE...
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE WHO COULD DRINK THAT MUCH BEFORE...
TWO OF YOU?

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, THAT GIEVE FELLOW, THE MINSTREL, WAS WITH US...
DOES HE STILL LIVE...?

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